

On December 5, Nepal celebrated International Volunteer Day recognizing the contribution of Nepal's Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and their many contributions to improving health services in rural areas. The FCHV Program was established in 1988 with key support from USAID and now includes 49,000 dedicated volunteers and covers all of Nepal. The FCHVs play a crucial role in the distribution of Vitamin A, immunizations, family planning methods, safe motherhood techniques, and the diagnosis and treatment of pneumonia and diarrhea – Nepal's two top childhood killers. Their contributions are a large part of why Nepal is one of few countries on track to meet MDG 4 and 5 -reducing child mortality and improving maternal health.